



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

Date: July 1, 2021

Public Notice of Scoping and Availability for Stakeholder Involvement for the Proposed Long-Term Spinal Cord Injury and Clinical Expansion for Mental Health Projects Dallas VA Medical Center, 4500 South Lancaster Road, Dallas, Texas

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Construction and Facilities Management is gathering information to assist with the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of the Federal decision-making process for proposed construction of Long-Term Spinal Cord Injury (LTSCI) and Clinical Expansion for Mental Health (CEMH) facilities at the VA North Texas Health Care System – Dallas Campus (Dallas VAMC) located at 4500 South Lancaster Road in Dallas, TX.

VA will be consulting with the Texas Historical Commission (SHPO), Tribes and consulting parties on the most effective way to address the current undertaking as proposed and its compliance with the 2013 executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The current proposal is to supersede the MOA with a new Programmatic Agreement (PA) which will allow VA to govern the implementation of the program and the resolution of potential adverse effects for this undertaking.

The location of the Dallas VAMC campus is shown on Figure 1. The existing Dallas VAMC facilities, originally constructed in 1940 and expanded throughout the years, has become inadequately sized and configured to provide the modern delivery of health care services currently needed. The proposed LTSCI and CEMH projects would provide larger, state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure at the Dallas VAMC campus to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

The primary components of the LTSCI project include:

- Construction and operation of an approximately 172,000-square-foot, three to four-story LTSCI facility in the southeastern portion of the campus, adjacent to Building 74.
- Demolition of Buildings 10, 12, and 27 in the northeastern portion of the campus and construction and operation of a new Warehouse/Office building in this area that is approximately 80,000-square-foot in size and two stories tall.
- Temporary construction support areas and utility improvements on and off the Dallas VA campus to accommodate the facility.

The primary components of the CEMH project are anticipated to include:

- Demolition of Buildings 44, 45, TT46, TT47, TT48, and TT51 in the north-central portion of the campus and construction and operation of a new CEMH facility in this area that is approximately 215,000-square-foot in size and three to four stories tall.
- Demolition of Buildings 5, 6, 8, 9 and TT49 in the northern portion of the campus, reconfiguration/relocation of the Liberty Loop road and the construction of surface parking lots in this area for the CEMH. A reconfigured Dallas VAMC campus entrance may also be

constructed in this area.

- Construction and operation of a new approximately 1,000-car, three to five-story parking garage in the northwestern portion of the campus, in the northern portion a current Dallas VAMC parking lot.
- Temporary construction support areas and utility improvements on and off the Dallas VA campus to accommodate the facility.

Figures 2-4 illustrate the current Dallas VAMC campus configuration and the proposed LTSCI and CEMH project locations.

The LTSCI and CEMH projects would be conducted in phases over a period of 5 or more years to minimize campus disruption and to support continued campus operations. It is anticipated that the majority of the LTSCI construction activities would be completed prior to beginning the CEMH construction.

As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake an environmental analysis of the proposed action in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). VA is seeking input as part of the scoping process on issues to be addressed during the NEPA analysis, including environmental concerns.

NEPA requires that a Federal agency provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the process of analyzing the impact of Federal actions on the human environment. The purpose of this letter is to notify members of the community and other stakeholders of this opportunity to assist VA in identifying issues, including environmental concerns that may occur as a result of the proposed Federal action. VA will also be initiating consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108 at a future date. VA will be consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office, Tribes, and other consulting parties to identify historic properties that may potentially be affected by the undertaking and to seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate for potential adverse effects.

A public scoping comment period will be open through **Tuesday, August 3, 2021**. During this time, agencies and stakeholders are encouraged to submit written comments and input on the proposed action in order to help identify potential issues or concerns for consideration in the NEPA process. Submissions received during the scoping period will be considered in the NEPA analysis.

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, all submissions should be sent/made via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Dallas VAMC LTSCI and CEMH NEPA Scoping."

DALLAS VAMC CAMPUS LOCATION
Proposed LTSCI and CEMH Projects
Dallas VA Medical Center
4500 South Lancaster, Dallas, Texas



FIGURE 2

EXISTING DALLAS VAMC CAMPUS CONFIGURATION
Proposed LTSCI and CEMH Projects
Dallas VA Medical Center
4500 South Lancaster, Dallas, Texas

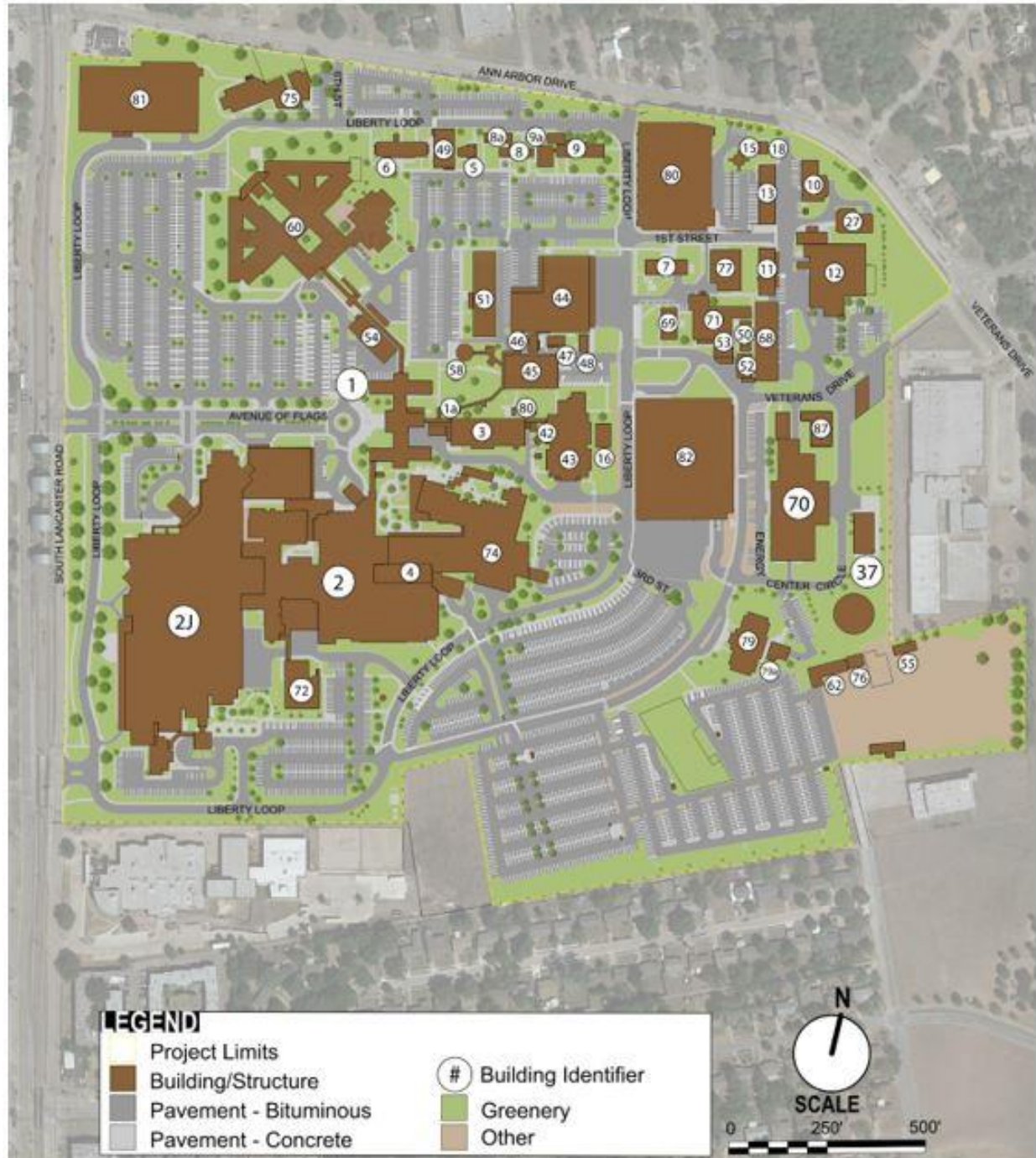


FIGURE 3

PRELIMINARY LTSCI and CEMH PROJECT SITE PLAN
Proposed LTSCI and CEMH Projects
Dallas VA Medical Center
4500 South Lancaster, Dallas, Texas



FIGURE 4

PROPOSED LTSCI and CEMH PROJECT LOCATIONS

Proposed LTSCI and CEMH Projects
Dallas VA Medical Center
4500 South Lancaster, Dallas, Texas

